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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 26, 2006, 2:00pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Announces Upheld Conviction in Child Sexual Assault, Pornography and Manufacturing Case**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today the conviction and sentence of 38-year-old Jeffrey Myers of Blue Hill has been upheld by the Nebraska Court of Appeals. Myers had been sentenced to 55 to 75 years in prison for sexual crimes against children.

"Jeffrey Myers belongs in prison where he can't hurt another child," Bruning said. "The court's ruling ensures he'll pay for his crimes."

Myers was found guilty of 20 felony counts in 2005, including five counts of first degree sexual assault, three counts of sexual assault of a child, seven counts of manufacturing child pornography, and five felony counts of possession of child pornography.

The charges involved three children. According to investigative reports, Myers would pay young boys to engage in sex acts with him and occasionally record those acts.

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# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 22, 2006, 2:00pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Announces \$319,292 House of Prince Tobacco Settlement**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that Nebraska received \$319,292.98 under a \$55.4 million settlement reached with House of Prince A/S and Scandinavian Tobacco, S.I.A., to resolve a dispute over enforcement of a 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA).

"House of Prince skirted its responsibility for the health of our citizens," Bruning said. "Our action shows we're watching to make sure tobacco companies pay their dues in full to Nebraskans."

The MSA requires tobacco manufacturers that signed the agreement to make annual payments to the states, in part to compensate the states for billions of dollars in health care costs associated with treating tobacco-related diseases under state Medicaid programs. House of Prince is a Participating Manufacturer under the MSA, and Scandinavian Tobacco is an affiliated entity.

The settlement resolved a three-year court dispute over whether cigarettes manufactured by Scandinavian Tobacco and sold in the United States from 1999-2003 were subject to the MSA's payment requirements and other obligations. No cigarettes manufactured by Scandinavian Tobacco have been sold in the United States since 2003.

The State of California filed a lawsuit in February 2003 to force House of Prince to make MSA payments for Scandinavian Tobacco's cigarettes. House of Prince subsequently entered settlement discussions that produced a national agreement with all jurisdictions that signed the original MSA – 46 states, four territories, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

Aside from its payment provisions, the MSA created restrictions on the advertising, marketing and promotion of cigarettes. For example, it prohibits the targeting of youth in cigarette advertising. It also restricts outdoor advertising of cigarettes, the advertising of cigarettes in public transit facilities, and the use of cigarette brand names on merchandise, among other limitations.

The settlement funds will be placed in Nebraska's Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 20, 2006, 10:30am CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Hires Freudenberg to Head Criminal Bureau, Stoll to Lead Child Protection Division**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that Sheridan County Attorney John Freudenberg will join the Attorney General's office as Criminal Bureau Chief. Bruning also announced that York County Attorney Randy Stoll will lead the Child Protection Division in the Nebraska Department of Justice.

"John Freudenberg's work is well-respected among his colleagues statewide, and Randy Stoll has a strong record of protecting children," Bruning said. "I handpicked these two prosecutors because we share a passion for protecting Nebraskans. That, coupled with their prosecutorial experience, makes them the best choice for Nebraska."

Freudenberg's responsibilities will include assisting county attorneys with prosecutions of drug and violent crimes statewide. Freudenberg will assume his duties Jan. 8. Stoll will lead the Attorney General's efforts to fight crimes against children, predominantly involving drugs, sexual assault and child abuse. He will begin on Jan. 12.

Since 1996, Freudenberg has served as a county prosecutor in Scotts Bluff and Sheridan counties and special prosecutor in counties throughout the Nebraska panhandle. Freudenberg is a partner in Smith, King and Freudenberg in Rushville, Neb. Since 2003, he has served as Sheridan County Attorney. He earned his law degree from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 1995.

"The Attorney General's office aggressively prosecutes violent crime across this state. That's what I worked to achieve in Western Nebraska, and that's the team I want to join in Lincoln," Freudenberg said. "The Criminal Bureau is full of gifted and experienced attorneys. It will be a privilege working with them."

Stoll has nearly 20 years experience prosecuting cases in Seward and York counties, specializing in cases involving children. Stoll was elected York County Attorney in 1998, and served in that capacity until joining the Attorney General's Office. He earned his law degree at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 1974.

"I am impressed by the emphasis the Attorney General places on protecting children and elevating public awareness about crimes against children," Stoll said. "I know the office has a distinguished record in prosecuting child offenders, and I'm proud to be a part of that work."

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*An audio clip about the hires is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*



# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 18, 2006, 1:45pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## **Attorney General Bruning To Appeal 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit I-300 Ruling to U.S. Supreme Court**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that he will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court an 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that Nebraska's corporate farming ban, Initiative 300, is unconstitutional.

"We evaluated the case further and believe a Supreme Court appeal is our best option at this point," Bruning said.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit ruled on Dec. 13, that Initiative 300 violates the federal commerce clause in the U.S. Constitution.

"Nebraskans voted to add Initiative 300 to our state Constitution because family farms are an important part of our heritage," Bruning said. "It's our job to defend the amendment, and that's what we'll do."

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*An audio clip about the appeal is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*





Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 14, 2006, 6:15pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Applauds Order To Vacate Arbitrator Decision For Trooper Tied to KKK**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded a court order that Robert Henderson, a former state trooper with ties to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), should not be reinstated as an officer in the Nebraska State Patrol.

The order, issued Wednesday by Judge Jeffre Chevront in Lancaster County District Court, vacated an outside arbitrator's decision requiring the state patrol to reinstate the former trooper despite his membership in a group tied to the KKK.

"The Patrol has a well-deserved reputation as an institution with the highest integrity, and this ruling confirms the Patrol's ability to take actions necessary to maintain the public trust," Bruning said.

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# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 13, 2006, 3:45pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## Attorney General Bruning Comments On I-300 Ruling

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning released the following statement today after the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Nebraska U.S. district court ruling that Initiative 300, Nebraska's corporate farming ban, is unconstitutional.

"Nebraskans voted to put Initiative 300 in our Constitution, and it's our obligation to defend the Constitution and the will of the people," Bruning said. "Our attorneys are already preparing a request for rehearing by the full Eighth Circuit panel."

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*An audio clip about the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court ruling is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*





Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 8, 2006, 5:00pm CST

Contact: Holley Bolen  
402.471.3888

## Order of Temporary Injunction Granted Against War Museum Developer

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today Lancaster County District Court Judge John Colborn has granted an order of temporary injunction against Kyle Kopitke, of Nelson, Nebraska, to restrain him from relocating the war museums and removing corporate assets while the case is pending.

Bruning filed suit against Kopitke on Dec. 1, 2006. The suit alleges Kopitke, over the past two years, used a scheme to set up charitable war museums in Oxford, Edgar, and Nelson, Neb., to defraud Nebraska war veterans, local governments, and private individuals out of personal possessions and money for personal benefit. Kopitke's nonprofit corporations, the National Korean War Museum in Edgar and the Vietnam War National Museum in Nelson, were also named as parties to the lawsuit.

"Nebraska's veterans deserve to be treated with respect and honor," Bruning said. "Mr. Kopitke's efforts to capitalize on the sacrifices they've made to protect our freedom must be stopped. Today's order will ensure that those precious items donated by our men and women in uniform will not disappear," Bruning said.

Kopitke presented the museums to the affected communities as long-lasting "economic development opportunities." Each town offered volunteer services and thousands of dollars in incentives and benefits to Kopitke in order to establish and develop the museums in their communities. Kopitke has operated similar schemes in Utah and Hawaii over the past eight years.

Kopitke was recently released from the Furnas County Jail. He was serving a jail sentence for criminally trespassing on the abandoned property where the National Korean War Museum had been previously located in Oxford. He was attempting to remove property from the museum.

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*An audio clip about the order is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*





# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 2, 2006, 3:00pm CST

Contact: Holley Hatt  
402.471.2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Files Suit Against War Museum Developer**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning Friday filed suit in Lancaster County District Court against Kyle Kopitke, of Nelson, Neb., for defrauding Nebraskans in a charitable war museums scheme.

Lancaster County District Court Judge Jodi Nelson granted Bruning's emergency request for a temporary restraining order against Kopitke and the museums to restrain him from relocating the war museums and removing the corporate assets of the museums until the court orders otherwise.

"Mr. Kopitke preyed on the patriotism and emotions of Nebraska veterans," Bruning said. "He made a mockery of their sacrifices and bamboozled our communities. It's time to put a stop to his shenanigans."

Bruning alleged Kopitke, over the past two years, used a scheme to set up charitable war museums in Oxford, Edgar, and Nelson, Neb., to defraud Nebraska war veterans, local governments, and private individuals out of personal possessions and money for personal benefit. Kopitke's nonprofit corporations, the National Korean War Museum in Edgar and the Vietnam War National Museum in Nelson, were also named as parties to the lawsuit.

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Bruning is seeking relief under the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, and the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act. He seeks to hold Kopitke liable for veterans who donated war artifacts and memorabilia to the museums, damages incurred by the local communities of Nelson, Edgar and Oxford, costs and fees, and civil fines and penalties of \$2,000 per violation of state consumer protection laws. Bruning also seeks judicial dissolution of the museums as nonprofit corporations, the removal of Kopitke as a director of the museums, and the appointment of a receiver by the court to protect and preserve the corporate assets of the museums during the lawsuit. Assistant Attorney General Jeff Gaertig is handling the case.

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*An audio clip about the lawsuit can be found on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*